

Docket No.: 418268833US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Schorr et al.

Application No.: 10/736,435

Confirmation No.: 3420

Filed: December 15, 2003

Art Unit: 2628

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING  
A DYNAMIC EXPANDED TIMELINE

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Examiner: J. A. Amini

**REPLY BRIEF**

MS Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief responds to the Examiner's Answer mailed on August 19, 2008 in the above-identified application, and is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed on March 30, 2007.

Appellant has thoroughly reviewed the Examiner's Answer and does not understand what the Examiner's position is as to what features of Hoellerer correspond to what claimed elements.

It is not clear what the Examiner believes corresponds to the claimed "second line." According to the Examiner, "Hoellerer in fig. 10 illustrates the step of placing a second line." (Examiner's Answer, p. 3.) The Examiner also states that interval "246 [of Figure 3] is the second line." (Id. at p. 4.) Figure 10 shows a data structure representing a trip with a start time and an end time for each event of the trip. Interval 246 is part of a user interface that illustrates the start and end time of an event of the trip. Appellant does not understand how a data structure stored in memory and a depiction of an interval on a user interface can both correspond to the same "second line."

In the Appeal Brief, appellant argued that Figure 10 of Hoellerer does not describe placing a second line on an electronic drawing sheet, which was previously the Examiner's position. It is now the Examiner's position that

Hoellerer's fig. 10 illustrates expanded view of the second line in fig. 3, #242 is the first line (e.g., reference #242 trip scenarios shows the time interval for the first line as a time interval of Monday thru Sunday), and #246 is the second line (e.g., #246 indicates the time interval of Tuesday-Thursday, furthermore, the handles 244a and b are for expanding the time interval of the second line) on the electronic drawing sheet (#300 in fig. 3 is the drawing sheet).

(Examiner's Answer, p. 6.) As best appellant can understand, the Examiner now believes that the middle of the three alternative trip plans 242 of Figure 3 (from Monday to Sunday) corresponds to the claimed "first line" and that the interval 246 from Tuesday through Thursday within the middle alternative trip plan corresponds to the claimed "second line." Given this correspondence, however, Hoellerer would have nothing that

corresponds to the claimed "portion of the first line." It would seem, however, that if the middle alternative trip plan corresponds to the claimed first line, then interval 246 would more appropriately correspond to a portion of that first line. Given this seemingly more appropriate correspondence, however, Hoellerer would have no second line that corresponds to the time interval 246.

The Examiner states that Figure 10 illustrates an "expanded view of the second line." Figure 10, however, is not an expanded view of any lines of Figure 3 as the Examiner suggests. Rather, it is data structure that defines the events within an alternative trip plan. So, for example, the data structure of Figure 10 would define the middle alternative trip plan of Figure 3 with one of its start and end times corresponding to interval 246 of that middle alternative trip plan. Moreover, the data structure of Figure 10 is not displayed and thus cannot be considered to be a "view" of anything.

Appellant does not understand why the Examiner points to the handles 244a and 244b of interval 246 of Figure 3. Appellant's claims recite that a second line is an "expanded view" of a time interval of a portion of a first line (e.g., claim 23). Hoellerer's handles can be used to move the start or end times of interval 246, for example, to move the end from Thursday to Friday. Although such an interval might be considered to be an expansion of the old interval, it cannot be considered to be an "expanded view" of the old interval and certainly not a second line that is an expanded view of a portion of a first line.

In discussing claim 24, the Examiner highlights the following section of ¶0007 of Hoellerer:

if a person defines a budget of \$1000.00 for a vacation, and decides to spend \$400.00 on airfare and \$400.00 on hotel accommodations, and decides that they will need \$150.00 for meals, that person will not have the option of a \$200.00 helicopter tour unless they increase their budget.

(Examiner's Answer, p. 9.) Claim 24, which depends from claim 23, recites "adding at least one project event to the second line without modifying the selected portion of the first line." Appellant does not understand how the increasing of a budget for a trip relates in any way to such adding a project event to one displayed line without modifying another displayed line. Unfortunately, whatever point the Examiner is trying to make has not been clearly explained.

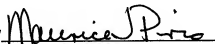
In discussing claim 27, the Examiner states that the "Examiner believes that the claimed invention claims graphically expand/shorten the duration of a trip plan." (Examiner's Answer, p. 9.) None of the claims, however, mention a "trip" or a "trip plan."

In summary, as discussed in detail in the Appeal Brief, the Examiner has not demonstrated that Hoellerer discloses the display of a first line, the selection of a portion of a first line, and the display of a second line that is an expanded view of the selected portion as recited, for example, by claim 23.

Thus, appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections.

Dated: October 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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